

HAMMOND TO ESCAPE SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

The Transvaal Prisoners Not Likely to Remain Fifteen Years in Jail.

Sir Hercules Robinson Says the Heavy Sentences Were a "Matter of Form."

Governor Believes Boers Will Be Merciful to the Johannesburg Reform Leaders.

MINOR OFFENDERS TO PAY FINES.

Many Will Be Released Immediately and the Others Will Be Kept in Jail for Short Terms.

London, May 20.—A dispatch from Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of the Cape Colony, says that the sentences of Colonel Frank W. Rhodes, Lionel Phillips, George Farrar and John Hays Hammond, the leaders of the Johannesburg Reform Committee, who were condemned to death for high treason against the Transvaal, have been commuted to fifteen years' imprisonment, with a provision for their future commutation.

These cases will be considered by the Executive Council of the Transvaal next week.

Governor Robinson further states that he learns that the commutation of the sentences of the four leaders in the reform movement to imprisonment for fifteen years was merely a matter of form, as it was necessary to impose some sentence upon the prisoners immediately, and that the sentences will probably not be put into effect.

Sir Hercules says that the Transvaal authorities have reached a decision in the cases of fifty-nine of the members of the Reform Union who were recently convicted in connection with the conspiracy against the South African Republic and were sentenced to imprisonment, fine and banishment.

A number of these prisoners will be released immediately, and others will be given their freedom at the expiration of three months, while a part of those still remaining in custody will be allowed to renew their requests for a cancellation of their sentences after five months shall have elapsed, and four of the condemned men will be given the same privilege at the end of a year from the date of their sentences.

That portion of the judgment of the court imposing a fine upon the convicted men will stand, but the banishment clause will be suspended, provided the prisoners give their word of honor not to interfere in future in the politics of the Republic. The names of the prisoners whose sentences have thus been reduced are at present kept secret.

The Government has received the names of the prisoners whose sentences have been commuted. The men who are to be released at once are nine in number. Among them are the Americans, H. J. King, Captain Meln and Butters. Those who are to be released after three months number nineteen, and include F. R. Lingman, an American. Among eighteen who are to serve five months before being allowed to renew their requests for their release are the Americans V. B. Clement and J. W. Leonard.

The four who are to serve a year include Hamilton and S. W. Jameson, brother of Dr. Jameson. The cases of four others have not been considered by the Executive Council, owing to the fact that the prisoners have not as yet presented any petition for a reversal or commutation of their sentences. These include the American Sampson.

The list received by the Government contains the names of five others, but in which group they belong is not definitely known. The name of J. B. Curtis, of New York, does not appear upon the list.

CONVICTS DASH FOR LIBERTY.
French Prisoners Capture a Schooner and Some of Them Escape.

Georgetown, Demerara, May 9.—Bound for the penal colony at Mount Argent, twenty-five French convicts left Cayenne in a little schooner on April 11 last, under the guard of a solitary warden, whose only weapon was a revolver. Four days later the convicts arose in their night, overpowered the warden and the schooner's crew and took possession of the vessel. They steered for the South American coast, and, after seven days, reached the mouth of the Orinoco, where fifteen of the convicts abandoned the vessel and struck out for safety in the interior.

The other ten remained on board, and the next day they were recaptured by the British authorities. They were sent here, and are now awaiting extradition.

PEARY AFTER A METEORITE.
Completes Plans for His Trip to the Arctic This Summer.

Peary's plans for his arctic expedition this summer are substantially complete. Instead of St. John's, as in former years, Sydney, Cape Breton, will be the point of departure, from which port the expedition will leave about July 15 in a steam whaler, Captain John Bartlett, in command of the Peary expedition of 1895, will be in command.

From Cape Breton the course will be laid along the Labrador coast, and, if possible, examine some valuable mining prospects which have been reported in an unexplored place on the north coast. The scientific party from Cornell University, headed by Professor Ralph S. Tarr, of the Department of Geology, will embark on the steamer, leaving her at some point in Greenland for scientific field work during the time of her absence to the north.

Blue Ribbon Sale at Cleveland.
Cleveland, O., May 20.—To-day was the speed day in the Fasig blue ribbon sale. Some of the fastest horses seen on the track were sold. Star Pointed 2:04 1/2, after much lively bidding, was sold to Ernest Millik, of Boston, Mass., for \$5,500. Maggie Sherman 2:12 1/2, was sold to J. C. Peck, of Newark, N. J., for \$4,000, and it is said Mr. Peck represented a syndicate of German bankers, and that she will be immediately shipped. There were forty-seven horses sold during the day, bringing in all \$24,000.



UNCLE SAM: "THAT D-- PARROT CAN'T TALK!"

BULLETS FOR A HUSBAND.

Dr. Thomas Renn, of Chicago, Shot at Five Times and Fatally Wounded by His Wife.

Chicago, May 20.—Dr. Thomas Renn, a prominent physician, living at No. 227 Townsend street, was fatally shot to-day by his wife, Sarah, at the corner of Elm and Townsend streets.

The tragedy was the result of trouble of long standing between the two. They were married three years ago, and have a child two years old. A year ago Dr. Renn fell heir to \$35,000, and soon afterward separated from his wife. A divorce suit followed. In a suit, involving certain real estate, Mrs. Renn was beaten, and this seemed to anger her greatly. She blamed her husband's relatives for causing the separation, and told several of her friends that she would be revenged upon the whole family.

This morning the woman was noticed near the residence of the doctor's brother, on Townsend street, but later changed her position to the corner of Elm and Townsend streets. She had not been there long when the doctor emerged from his office and walked toward her.

When he was within a few feet of Mrs. Renn she stepped out and spoke to him. He made some reply, and then, suddenly, she drew a revolver from the folds of her dress and fired two shots in rapid succession. Both penetrated the doctor's head, one just above the left temple and the other back of the left ear. The doctor fell to the sidewalk, whereupon his wife leveled her revolver again and fired three more shots.

One of them ploughed through his left leg, another grazed his right arm, and the last one imbedded itself in the sidewalk. "I'll show you, I'll show you," Mrs. Renn kept repeating. When she saw that her aim had been perfect, she disappeared, but was later arrested.

IRISH MAY NOT PARADE.

Volunteer Regiment Refused Permission to Bear Arms on Memorial Day.

The Police Board yesterday received a letter from Robert H. Butler, of No. 108 Nassau street, stating that the Irish Regiment of Volunteers had paraded on Lexington avenue in uniform on May 7 and that the Volunteers had announced their intention of parading on Memorial Day. He cited section 147 of the Military Code, which says independent military organizations will not in existence April 23, 1883, cannot parade in the streets under arms. General George Von Schack, Grand Marshal of the Memorial Day parade, appeared before the Police Commissioners yesterday and asked for a decision on the same point. The Board referred the matter to Commissioner Andrews and last night he announced that the Irish Regiment would not be allowed to parade under arms on Memorial Day.

OLD SOCIETY'S NEW CHURCH.

Cornerstone for Shearith Israel's Temple Laid with Impressive Ceremony.

In the presence of a large number of persons, L. Napoleon, president of the congregation of Shearith Israel, yesterday afternoon laid the cornerstone of the new church, on the southwest corner of Seventieth street and Central Park West. Rev. H. Pereira Mendes, rabbi of the congregation, and Rev. Meidola de Soia, of Montreal, Canada, offered prayer. Rev. S. Morris, of Congregation Mikveh Israel, of Philadelphia, made an address, and after the psalm "May God Be Gracious Unto Us," Lewis Hyman, vice-president of the congregation, presented the silver trowel. Rev. Abraham H. Nieto, Assistant Hazan of the congregation, read from the Scriptures. The final address was made by the rabbi of the congregation, Shearith Israel. Meetings were held in an old mill in South William street, on the site of the first Dutch Reform Church in America. In the vestibule of the new place of worship will be placed two millstones from that place of worship.

APPROPRIATES \$11,000,000.

The Senate Passes the Fortifications Bill, Increased by About Five Millions.

Washington, May 20.—The last but one of the general appropriation bills—the one which provides for fortifications and other works of defense—occupied the attention of the Senate to-day, and was passed. It carries about eleven millions of dollars, about five millions more than when it passed the House. The principal item of increase is one of \$3,115,000 for gun and mortar batteries.

There was little or no controversy over the bill; but a rather important discussion was precipitated by an amendment offered by Mr. Gorman to authorize the issue of one hundred millions of Treasury certificates of indebtedness, in order to meet the expenditures called for by the appropriation bills of the present session.

The amendment was opposed by Mr. Sherman, who declared that, never before, had such a proposition been made to meet the current expenses of the Government in a time of profound peace. He said that he would "tear up" all the appropriation bills rather than make such a confession of bankruptcy.

At the close of the discussion the amendment was laid on the table.

ANOTHER BRITISH PROTEST.

Colombian Interference with the Bermuda Is Objected To.

Colon, Colombia, May 20. It is reported here that the Spanish Government has requested the Colombian authorities to overhauled the filibustering steamer Bermuda, should that vessel be found in Colombian waters.

The British authorities here threaten to make a strong protest against such action, and the gunboat Cordova is detained here awaiting developments.

Freeman A. Smith Dead.

Freeman A. Smith, president of the Provident Institution for Savings, in Washington, street, Jersey City, died suddenly yesterday morning at his home, No. 137 West Sixty-ninth street, New York, of neuralgia of the heart.

POLICE BOARD MEETS IN PEACE.

Cool Weather Probably Had a Beneficial Effect—Killilea Returns to Duty.

All the Police Commissioners were ready for the Board meeting, yesterday, soon after 10 o'clock a. m. The regular meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, but after a wait of two hours for a quorum, the meeting was postponed. Peace reigned.

Acting Deputy Chief Cortright reported to the Board relative to the feeding of prisoners, who sometimes to many hours without a meal. Mayor Strong asked for information. The report will tell him there is no law under which prisoners can be fed, and it will cost \$40,000 a year.

The Police Commissioners were officially notified of the acquittal of Captain Killilea last week. He was instructed to report for duty immediately. George Lang, of the High Bridge Station, who was dismissed two years ago, was reinstated. He will get \$2,000 back salary, and the costs of his trial.

Sergeant A. H. Schler, of the West Thirtieth Street Station, was retired on account of ill-health. He will receive a pension of \$1,000 a year.

BATTLE FOR G. A. R. VOTES.

Frederick Cossum Made Senior Vice-Commander of the State.

Utica, May 20.—The session of the G. A. R. held this afternoon was one of the stormiest in the history of the State organization. The strife was over the office of senior vice-commander, for which Frederick Cossum, of Auburn, and John T. Davidson, of Elmira, were aspirants. Many personal remarks were made by the friends of each, and at one time the encampment was at fever heat.

John T. Graham, of Rochester, was elected department commander unanimously, and when the vote was counted this afternoon, it was found that Cossum had defeated Davidson by a vote of 414 to 174. Rev. William M. Hyde, of Jamestown, was elected chaplain after a lively contest. Admiral Menck was elected delegate-at-large to the National Encampment at St. Paul, September 4.

DEATH TO CIGAR BUSINESS.

Manufacturers of the Havana Brands Now Think They May Have to Close Their Factories.

The principal Havana cigar manufacturers of New York hold gloomy views of the future of their business since the issuance of General Weyler's order prohibiting the exportation of Cuban leaf tobacco. At least six of them have recalled their traveling salesmen and sent representatives to Havana with instructions to buy all the available stock in that market before the ten days of grace allowed by the decree have elapsed.

It is expected that every factory in the country will be closed down before the end of the year if the decree remains in force. Most of them have not enough stock on hand to run three months.

About 50,000 cigar makers, 1,000 of whom are in New York, would be thrown out of employment by the closing of the American factories. Manufacture has already been curtailed in the factories of Sanchez & Hays, F. Garcia & Brothers, Amo Oria & Co., Guerra Diaz & Co., Y. M. Ybar & Manara, Arguelles, Lopez & Brother, S. Rodriguez and Pendas & Alvarez, who employ about 15,000 men in the manufacture of Havana cigars, are already feeling the effects of the decree, and will be forced to close unless relieved by the annulment of the decree.

When the decree was issued the leaf tobacco stock in Havana was very low. The insurgents control the best producing territory on the island, and, in the absence of shipping facilities from the republican ports of the Sagua Clara district, can make no better disposition of the crops than to burn them.

F. Garcia, of the firm of F. Garcia & Brothers, No. 129 Chambers street, said yesterday that if Weyler's decree was maintained his firm would remove its factories from New York and Tampa to Havana. Sanchez & Hays, of No. 1 Cedar street, said they would probably quit business. "From our standpoint," said Mr. Sanchez, "it would be impracticable to remove to Havana. The only stock we use comes from the Pinar del Rio province."

RAILROAD SCHEME TO BEAT UNCLE SAM.

Seaboard Air Line Accused of Attempting to Defraud.

Postmaster-General Wilson Explains How the Trick Was Worked.

Public Documents Were Shipped Twice to Increase the Volume of Mail Carried.

NEWSPAPERS SENT TO DEAD MEN.

Had It Not Been Discovered the Road Would Have Been Entitled to Greatly Increased Compensation for Carrying Mails.

Washington, May 20.—Postmaster-General Wilson to-day gave out for publication a statement containing serious charges against the officials of the Seaboard Air Line, which the Postmaster-General alleges is a gigantic attempt on the part of the road to defraud the Government out of thousands of dollars for carrying the United States mails. The statement is as follows:

"Every four years the mail transported over the various railways in the United States is weighed for a period of thirty days, and upon the average weight obtained during the thirty days the commission of the railroad is adjusted and remains in force for four years. The last weighing was conducted during the month of March, 1894. One railroad company—the Seaboard Air Line, whose main line extends from Portsmouth, Va., to Atlanta, Ga.—attempted to take advantage of this opportunity to swell the weighing of mail carried over its system during the weighing of the mails by large shipments of public documents. About three hundred sacks of documents, franked by a United States Senator and a member of Congress, were sent to the various station agents of this company in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. The sacks weighed from 100 to 125 pounds each—two, three, four and even five sacks being sent to one agent.

Some agents were furnished by railroad officials with lists of addresses in North Carolina and Virginia. The division superintendents and roadmasters gave oral instructions to the agents under them as to pasting labels, or writing addresses on the books which were not previously addressed; but the tags of the sacks were all addressed "All for"—(namely, a railroad agent at that point). The books were then remailed and again transported over the routes of this company, to be again weighed. A few agents, not understanding their instructions, gave out the books for public distribution, before the franked labels were received.

RE-ADDRESSED THE BOOKS.
"Fifteen sacks were delivered at Portsmouth, Va., addressed in bulk to the General Superintendent. That night the books were re-addressed in the railroad building by his secretary and a division superintendent, and remailed the following morning to various points along the route. A newspaper at Elkhart, N. C., learning of this transaction, published a short article headed 'A Mistake,' stating, in substance, that a United States Senator, in mailing documents to his constituents, had by mistake addressed them to station agents along the Seaboard Air Line Railway. A division superintendent, learning of the article, proceeded to the town and induced the editor to cut the item out of every copy of his paper, on the ground that it would hurt the road.

"The 'padding' of the mails was investigated by the Post Office Department, and to prevent this practice the department has ordered the weighing to be continued for thirty additional days after April. The railroad company then resorted to a new scheme, by contracting with publishers of newspapers for a large number of papers to be sent over their line daily, to addresses furnished by the company. At Portsmouth, Va., the general superintendent arranged with a Portsmouth paper to send 6,800 copies daily for ten days, and after that 2,400 copies daily, in bundles of twenty-five to each address to parties in South Carolina and Georgia on the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. At Raleigh, N. C., an official of the railroad arranged to have 6,000 copies of the first week and 8,000 copies a week afterward of a weekly paper sent in bundles of forty-five over the Seaboard Air Line road to stations in Georgia, South Carolina and a few in North Carolina. At Atlanta, Ga., the private secretary of an Atlanta lawyer arranged with an Atlanta newspaper to send 2,000 copies daily to be sent over the Seaboard Air Line to Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va., 1,000 addressed as to regular subscribers, the other thousand as sample copies.

IT MEANS MORE MONEY.
"Arrangements were also made with another Atlanta paper to send 4,000 copies of the Sunday issue, weighing over half a pound each, to addresses in Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va., Norfolk and Portsmouth city directories were furnished as the papers, from which to print labels for mailing papers to parties in those cities. Several of these parties thus addressed had moved from those cities or had died. Had this weighing been accepted by the Department the Seaboard Air Line railroad would have received for the next four years a much larger compensation than it was entitled to. Some of the newspaper publishers were indignant when they found that they had been made parties to such a scheme, and the publisher of the paper at Raleigh, N. C., refused to send out the fourth shipment of his paper."

"The abuse of the franking system is the subject of a bill in this case. Officials in the Post Office Department refuse to disclose the name of the Senator because he is believed to have been innocently 'worked' by the railroad company. An investigation is likely to follow."

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